

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application.

Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has not indicated whether the Formal Drawings filed June 4, 2002 have been accepted. Additionally, the Examiner has not acknowledged the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, or receipt of a certified copy of Japanese Application 2000-204908.

Applicant requests that the Examiner address these matters.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 4 and 7 for lack of antecedent basis. The claims have been amended to add an antecedent basis to various terms.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. These claims have been amended to address the indefiniteness issues, as shown in the Appendix.

New Claims

We propose adding new claims 10-15 to provide for a varying scope of protection for the invention.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. Appln No. 10/090,168

Atty Dkt No. Q68814

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Emery', written over a horizontal line.

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